

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akihiko HIRANO et al.
Serial No.: Not yet assigned
Continuation of USSN 09/986,597
Filed: January 22, 2004
For: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD**
Group: 2651 (expected)
Examiner: Rocio Colon (expected)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 27, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter thereto the following Preliminary
Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

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January 27, 2004

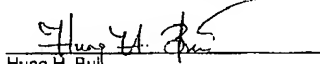
Re: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD**
U.S. Application No.: Not yet assigned
Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/986,597
Attorney Docket No.: 500.38183CC2

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Sir:
Applicants hereby submit the attached Preliminary Amendment (13 pgs) and Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 in the above-identified application.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that the attached Preliminary Amendment (13 pgs) and Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 is being formally filed in the USPTO via Group 2651; Examiner Rocio Colon; Facsimile No. 703-872-9306 on January 27, 2004.


Hung H. Bui

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